This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing method for processing an image using image data produced by an image producing device, and image production record information which includes at least information relating to shooting conditions at the time of production of the image data, and which is associated with the image data, the method comprising the steps of:

~~(a) determining a size parameter value that relates to a size of a subject in the image based on at least one of the image data and the image production record information; and~~

~~(b) performing color balance adjustment processing of the image data based on the size parameter value~~

<u>(a) performing color balance adjustment processing of the image data, wherein</u>
<u>the step (a) includes the steps of:</u>

<u>in cases where the image production record information includes subject distance information relating to a distance between the image producing device and the subject of the image data at the time of the production of the image data,</u>

<u>(i) determining differences of respective color components of pixels that have colors close to a present memory color from respective color components of a preset target color in the image data by analyzing the image data; and</u>

<u>(ii) adjusting a processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing in accordance with the differences and the subject distance information,</u>

<u>and wherein the step (ii) includes the step of adjusting a proportion of the processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing with respect to the differences so that the proportion is large when the distance represented by the subject distance information is small.</u>

Claim 2 (Original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the color balance adjustment processing is performed for the entirety of the image.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the step (a) includes the step of ~~selecting~~ performing the color balance adjustment processing using lens focal distance information obtained from the image production record information ~~as the size parameter value~~ in cases where the image production record information includes the lens focal distance information relating to a lens focal distance of the image producing device at the time of the production of the image data.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the step (a) includes the steps of:

calculating a proportion of pixels that have a color close to a preset memory color by analyzing the image data; and

~~selecting the proportion as the size parameter value~~ performing the color balance adjustment processing using the proportion of pixels.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processing method according to claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein the step ~~(b)~~ of performing the color balance adjustment processing using the lens focal distance information includes the step of adjusting a processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing so that the processing amount ~~increases with an increase in the size of the subject indicated by the size parameter value~~ is large when the lens focal distance represented by the lens focal distance information is large.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

judging whether or not operating settings of the image producing device at the time of the production of the image data are suitably set for portrait images by analyzing the image production record information in cases where the image production record information includes shooting mode information relating to the operating settings; and

performing the step ~~(b)~~ (a) in cases where the judgment is affirmative.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for processing an image using image data produced by an image producing device, and image production record information which includes at least information relating to shooting conditions at the time of production of the image data, and which is associated with the image data, the image processing device comprising:

an image ~~quality~~ adjuster <u>configured to perform color balance adjustment processing of the image data, wherein</u> ~~which determines a size parameter value that relates to a size of a subject in the image based on at least one of the image data and the image production record information, and which performs color adjustment balance processing of the image data based on the size parameter value~~

<u>in cases where the image production record information includes subject distance information relating to a distance between the image producing device and the subject of the image data at the time of the production of the image data, the image adjuster performs:</u>

<u>(i) determining differences of respective color components of pixels that have colors close to a preset memory color from respective color components of a preset target color in the image data by analyzing the image data; and</u>

<u>(ii) adjusting a processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing in accordance with the differences and the subject distance information,</u>

<u>and wherein the step (ii) includes the step of adjusting a proportion of the processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing with respect to the differences so that the proportion is large when the distance represented by the subject distance information is small.</u>

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A computer program product which is used to process an image using image data produced by an image producing device and image production record information which includes at least information relating to shooting conditions at the time of production of the image data, and which is associated with the image data, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable <u>storage</u> medium; and

a computer program stored on the computer-readable <u>storage</u> medium;

wherein the computer program ~~includes a program for causing a computer to implement a function which determines a size parameter value that relates to a size of a subject in the image based on at least one of the image data and the image production record information, and which performs color balance adjustment processing of the image data based on the size parameter value~~ <u>causes a computer to implement a method comprising the step of:</u>

<u>(a) performing color balance adjustment processing of the image data, wherein</u>
<u>the step (a) includes the steps of:</u>

<u>in cases where the image production record information includes subject distance information relating to a distance between the image producing device and the subject of the image data at the time of the production of the image data,</u>

<u>(i) determining differences of respective color components of pixels that have colors close to a preset memory color from respective color components of a present target color in the image data by analyzing the image data; and</u>

<u>(ii) adjusting a processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing in accordance with the differences and the subject distance information,</u>

<u>and wherein the step (ii) includes the step of adjusting a proportion of the processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing with respect to the differences so that the proportion is large when the distance represented by the subject distance information is small.</u>

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image output device for outputting an image using image data produced by an image producing device, and image production record information which includes at least information relating to shooting conditions at the time of production of the image data, and which is associated with the image data, the image output device comprising:

an image ~~quality~~ adjuster <u>configured to perform color balance adjustment processing of the image data</u> ~~which can determine a size parameter value that relates to a size of a subject in the image based on at least one of the image data and the image production record information, and which can perform color balance adjustment processing of the image data based on the size parameter value~~; and

an output unit which outputs an image using the image data whose color balance ~~image quality~~ has been adjusted<u>, wherein</u>

<u>in cases where the image production record information includes subject distance information relating to a distance between the image producing device and the subject of the image data at the time of the production of the image data, the image adjuster performs:</u>

<u>(i) determining differences of respective color components of pixels that have colors close to a preset memory color from respective color components of a preset target color in the image data by analyzing the image data; and</u>

<u>(ii) adjusting a processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing in accordance with the differences and the subject distance information,</u>

<u>and wherein the step (ii) includes the step of adjusting a proportion of the processing amount of the color balance adjustment processing with respect to the differences so that the proportion is large when the distance represented by the subject distance information is small.</u>